

U.S. Application No.: NEW
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: 3926.168

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace title with the following title:

"WHEEL"

Please add the following paragraph after the title:

Cross Reference To Related Application

[0001] This application is a **national stage** of PCT/EP2003/011485 filed October 16, 2003 and based upon DE 102 53 299.0 filed November 15, 2002 under the International Convention.

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] The invention relates to a wheel, having a main body and at least one reinforcing structure which increases the strength of the wheel, ~~according to the preamble of claim 1~~.

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] ~~This object is achieved by a wheel having the features of claim 1.~~ The distinguishing feature of the wheel according to the invention is that the reinforcing structure is at least partially integrated inside the main body. This makes it possible to increase the strength of the wheel in such a way that it is matched to the prevailing wheel stresses or those to

be anticipated in operation. The strength can therefore be increased particularly in the intensively stressed areas of the wheel, so that the main body has favorable operating characteristics particularly in these areas. At the same time, integration of a suitable reinforcing structure in the main body of the wheel is relatively easy to achieve from a production engineering standpoint. For example, the reinforcing structure can be at least partially integrally cast with the main body. The lost-wax casting process (precision casting process), for example, in which a suitable reinforcing structure is integrated in a wax model of the wheel and the wheel wax model is melted out during the actual wheel casting process, leaving the position of the reinforcing structure especially well defined in the wheel material, is particularly suited to this. Such a wheel manufacturing method permits a flexible arrangement of the reinforcing structure in the main body, allowing different reinforcing structures to be used, as required.